

The Gatekeeper

St. Scholastica Monastery Fort Smith, Arkansas

Vocation Transformation: God Will

Re-found You!

Have you ever thought about how often things change? How many times a day we experience change without taking notice? We change the clock to fall back or spring forward. We make a purchase at the grocery and the clerk makes change for the twenty dollar bill we just handed her/him. People often exchange looks or change clothes, change the TV channel, iPhone app or change the bed because we have deemed it necessary to change what needs to be changed. We are learning that the weather changes in alarming speed from sunny and warm to grey, swirling, flashing, stormy the next. Health and finances change, students often change majors, governments change laws, mechanics change tires and others change their profession. Most recently, I underwent physical changes. I needed surgery on my foot and apparently the water pipes out-

side the vocation office needed changes, too. Flooding happened. Asking for help happened for this very independent person.

Sometimes change occurs because we wish it; sometime it's forced upon us. We have been praying for the victims of forced change in recent weeks. Everything can change in a blink of an eye, leaving us dazed, confused and unsure about anything we once trusted. How do we ABIDE in that? Jesus offers us a real sense of hope in response to all the changes that swirl around us.

Recently the sisters of the community read an article by Ted Dunn, PhD entitled, *Refounding Religious Life*. As we seek after the heart of God we realize that God calls us to transform our world and hearts every day. We are called to do so with renewed vision and enthusiasm. What are you enthusiastic about? We are

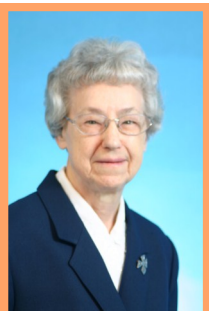


being called by God to reinvent ourselves as women religious —as Ted Dunn, PhD says, life is cyclic and often calls us to make hard choices, to do this takes on the challenge of the heart. God has given us all everything we have in life that is good. What better good can we give back in our life? As you look at today how will you re-find the life given you?

—Sister Kimberly Prohaska, OSB

Who's Who in Vocations!

Meet a Vocation Committee Member...



Sister Vivian Luyet, OSB

Sister Vivian Luyet, OSB joined the monastery on August 30, 1934. She made her profession to monastic life on June 24, 1937. She earned her MA degree in education from Creighton University, Omaha, NE. Vivacious and generous with her time, she offers gentle wisdom as a member of the vocation committee. Sister Vivian has served 3-4 years on the committee and says, "I appreciate being on the committee and am grateful for the *Horizon & Vocation Prayer* publications that we read.

"The articles open me to new insights and intrinsic ways to think about getting vocations.

"I would ask women today to think about religious life as a life option. I encourage women with this question: Have you ever thought about religious life? I would invite women to come visit the community for a sense of clarity and peace."

—Sister Vivian Luyet, OSB

Volume 3, Issue 5

June 2011



Special points of interest:

- Who's Who Vocation Committee
- Transformation & Vocations
- Vocation Event Opportunities
- Vocation Contact Calendar
- Consider your Call
- Monastic Profession & Novitiate

Inside this issue:

- New to Novitiate 2
- Vocation Opportunities 2
- Vocation Contacts Calendar 2
- Monastic Tea Party 3
- Benedictine Bookends: What a Monastic Reads 3
- Monastic WORD of the Month 4

Postulant Sandra Nelson becomes a Novice!

Just what is a novice and how do you become one? A novice by definition: "a person admitted to probationary membership in a religious community. A beginner, tyro, a person who is new to the circumstances, work, etc., in which he or she is placed; beginner; tyro: a person who has been received." How wonderful to know that one is received! We are received in God to this Benedictine life.

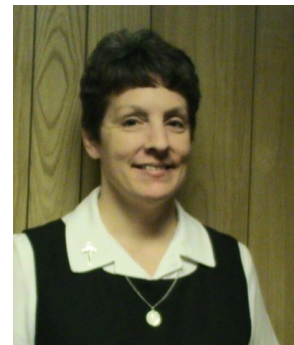
Postulant Sandra Marie Nelson found the community in Vocation Match via NRVC VISION online. She begins her novitiate with a celebration at Evening Praise where she will be formally received and enter into her canonical year. It is at this time that Postulant Sandra will be given her *sister* name. As she transitions into her two year novitiate Sandra will delve more deeply into her prayer life, her

monastic studies and monastic works within the community horarium. We pray that this formation time for Sandra will bring her ever closer to the God she seeks. Postulant Sandra has this to share about becoming a novice,

"During each visit to the community I was blessed with a true purpose as to what God was asking of me revealing himself to me in very significant ways as I experienced life with the sisters.

The structure of prayer, community time, ministry and personal time for learning, meditation/reflection and recreation is balanced in such a way that I had recognized it in myself and the manner in which I feel called to live this gift of life to be quite similar to these sisters who had been chosen by God."

—Sister Kimberly & Postulant Sandra Nelson



**Postulant Sandra Nelson
Becomes a Novice
on June 23, 2011**

God Calls. What will you do in response? Vocation Opportunities just for you!

- **Come and Seek Weekends:** Schedule is flexible. Contact the vocation director to set up a time!
- **Consider your Call:** Summer Discernment Week June 23-27 2011 for women ages 18-45. A wonderful retreat experience for seekers to the Benedictine way of life. This yearly experience allows participants to learn about the core values and about how we live the Rule of St. Benedict at St. Scholastica. This experience is in conjunction with
- **Subiaco Abbey, and the monks of Subiaco, Arkansas.** Space is limited! Contact the vocation director for more information today!
- **Monastic Life and Me.** This weekend is a fun opportunity to be of service to the community. To volunteer, contact the vocation office.
- **Observership:** For those who desire a longer and more intense monastic life experience. Observership is a one to

three month live in experience for those who qualify. Call today!! 479-783-4147

How do I know if God calls me?

Pray.

*Listen to those who have your
best interest at heart.*

*Be courageous & explore the
possibilities that you hear.*

Sister Alice O'Brien makes Perpetual Profession June 24, 2011

Sister Alice O'Brien has blessed the community with her enthusiasm and variety of gifts and talents.

Sister Alice, a native of Texas, is a mother, RN and recent theology student. Sister Alice joined us from our former daughter house in Columbia, MO just over three years ago. Her journey has led her on many paths and now she steps with loving conviction after the heart of God into full monastic membership at St. Scholastica, on June 24, 2011.



**Sister Alice O'Brien
Makes her final Profession
June 24, 2011**

In taking this step in her life, Sister Alice says, "Making perpetual profession is the culmination of a segment of my spiritual journey and the beginning of another. I am filled with joy pronouncing these promises of stability, obedience, and conversion of life to my God and to this Benedictine monastic community of St. Scholastica. This is my call from God to live the remainder of my life in this monastery.

The sisters are loving, supportive and work diligently with good zeal to make this community what God is calling it to, the community that our ancestor sisters worked for it to be. May God bless us and bring us all together to everlasting life."

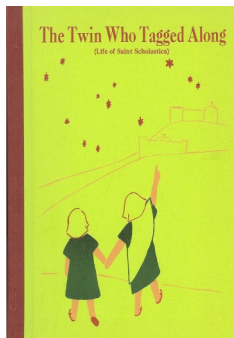
—Sr. Kimberly Prohaska and Sr. Alice O'Brien

Benedictine Bookends: What a Monastic Reads!

The Twin who Tagged Along (Life of St. Scholastica) By Sr. Digna Krenner, OSB

Last January I had the wonderful opportunity to attend a gathering called *United In Hope* for Benedictine Sisters age fifty five or younger in Atchison, Kansas. This event was the first inter-federation gathering for young women monastics in the country. Sisters Pat Bolling and Therese Moreno also took part in the event and we really enjoyed traveling to Kansas together. This is the preface to the reason I am writing about the book, *The Twin Who Tagged Along*, the second of a two book series by Sister Digna Krenner, of Atchison, KS. Sister Digna also wrote *St. Benedict the Other Twin*, which sadly is now out of print. Sister Digna is no longer living and although she is with God, I do wish she were here so I could talk with her about

her two delightful books about Benedict and Scholastica. It is too bad that we can no longer obtain her previous text for I surely would love to have my eyes drink in the story she told. **The Twin Who Tagged Along** drew my attention for a variety of reasons but it is the story that kept my happy attention. How many of us can deny that any story that begins with "Once upon a time"...will not find a home in us? Even though the text is penned for children its meaning cannot be passed over even by the most attuned adult.



Sr. Digna Krenner, OSB

The message of the twins tells us that we are in relationship with God, and God in relationship with us. For the searcher the relationship has to be *discovered* and *nurtured*.

To know the way calls us to embrace our baptism call with courage. How do you say yes to God? In both small and great ways God is with us and we need to take the chance on the God who first sought us.

—Sr. Kimberly Prohaska, OSB

A May Monastic Tea Party!

When life is busy, even in the monastery, sometimes we have to take time to invite new friends to the monastery. We did this one day this May when friends, Lynn Roebuck, and Kathy Jarvis brought children from Immaculate Conception Parish to learn about the community and how we live the Benedictine life. Sister Kimberly took the children on a tour of the monastery. The children happily explored the monastery by visiting Trinity Junior High, the Heritage Room, the Chapter Room, not to mention the monastery's indoor pool! The tour included a visit to the Pathways Room, the community room, and chapel.

They met the sisters who reside in our infirmary. The children who were preparing for their first communion loved traipsing around the hallowed halls of our 1924 Gothic structure. After learning about the lives of St. Scholastica and St. Benedict the visit concluded with an experience of Benedictine hospitality with a fine tea party, with fine china place settings and treats of cake and refreshing lemonade (in place of tea) on the warm day!

—Sister Kimberly Prohaska, OSB



Sister Kimberly hosts Lynn Roebuck, Kathy Jarvis and children from IC Parish to a vocation tour and tea party

What's the Story? (Listening To Those Who Heard The Call)



Vocation discerners, do you think you are alone in hearing the call to religious life? Do you wonder if there are people in the world who do not have a clue about the way that God is touching the heart? Is your guard up? Are you blanketed in doubt? Are you seeking clarity or certainty? Are you inundated with questions and not sure where

to look? The web offers many ways to aid in your search. NRVC and VISON, *Guide to Religious Life*, *Oye* and other publications, are terrific starting points. As one delves deeper into the possible call and how best to answer that call it may be a good idea to meet those who have been where you are. How does one do that if they do not personally know a religious? One way is to look on the web and start exploring. Our website along with many others offers ways to help you find your way.

Hearing the story of those who have walked

the journey often helps seekers. St. Scholastica Monastery Vocation Page offers such stories as told in the voice of the sister who answered her call to God. It is both a visual and a personal way to connect with Sisters who have listened to God in her promise to the Benedictine life. How will one know until one listens? Check out these interactive vocation stories today!

Vocation stories can be found at <http://www.stscho.org/vocations/stories> and on [UTUBE](#).

St. Scholastica Monastery

1301 S. Albert Pike
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903



Phone: 479-783-4147
Fax: 479-782-4352
Cell: 903-283-3132
E-mail: vocationdirector@stscho.org

Check out our website!
[Http://www.stscho.org](http://www.stscho.org)

The Gatekeeper

Vol. 3

No. 5

Gatekeeper is published quarterly by the vocation office of St. Scholastica Monastery PO Box 3489 Fort Smith, Arkansas 72913. Vocation Department
Email: vocationdirector@stscho.org Telephone: 479.783.4147.

Anyone is welcome to be on our mailing list at no charge.

Sr. Kimberly Rose Prohaska...Editor, Design, Photos, Circulation


Sr. Elise Forst.....Advisor, Copy Editor

Sr. Alice O'Brien.....Contributor

Sr. Vivian Luyet.....Contributor

Novice Sandra Nelson.....Contributor

*Consider
Your
Call*



*"Listen carefully,
my daughter,
to the master's
instructions..."*

Rule of St. Benedict Prologue

Come and See Monastic Experience

For Women ages 18-45

St. Scholastica Monastery
1301 S. Albert Pike Ave.
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

To attend this annual summer retreat contact:

Sr. Kimberly Rose Prohaska, OSB
Please Call: 479-783-4147 or email:
vocationdirector@stscho.org

Monastic Word of the Month

CENOBITE

Latin *coenobita*, which in turn derives from the Greek *koinos bios*, meaning "common life." A cenobite is a **monk** or **nun** who lives in community



Do you know a woman we'd like to know?



Please share with women information about the sisters of St. Scholastica!

Write, or Call today!

Does she have a listening heart-like ours?

A Heart filled with passion for being a God Seeker?

We are Benedictine Sisters:

Committed to seeking God, rooted in a rich monastic tradition. Women who seek to be a voice for the voiceless—by living a life balanced in hospitality, simplicity, and in the wisdom of the Gospel.

We join together in prayer, community life and service to help create a loving world! Come live out our 20/20 vision by sharing in our dream of being a prophetic and contemplative community!

Do you know a woman who would like to know more about us?

We'd like to know her too...